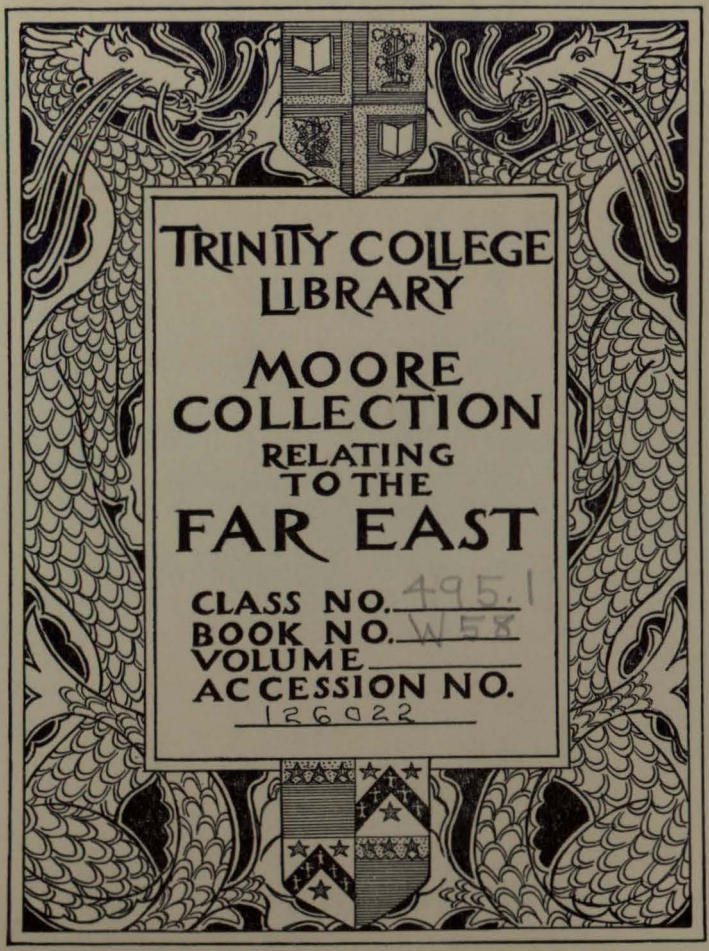

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1000
CHINESE
FOUNDATION CHARACTERS

BY
Y. C. JAMES YEN and DANIEL C. FU

ROMANIZATION, TRANSLATION
and
VOCABULARY

BY
WILLIAM C. WHITE

BOOK 1
(250 Characters)

School of Chinese Studies
University of Toronto
100 Queen's Park
1944

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Moore

1260222

FOREWORD

These "Thousand Foundation Characters"are those selected and used by Dr.Y.C.James Yen, the founder and national director of the Mass Educational Movement in China.

Many millions of China's illiterates have learned to read by the use of these primers, and they have been found remarkably useful in enabling westerners to acquire a knowledge of written Chinese. The lessons are in very good Kuo-yü,so they are also most suitable for those desiring knowledge of the spoken language.

Chinese characters are essentially basic, each character being a word,and each word being monosyllabic. Sometimes two characters are used together,to express an idea which either character alone might not do so well. They are oftentimes pictographic,especially in their archaic forms, and the more complex characters are usually ideographic.

In Chinese dictionaries the characters are invariably indexed under the 214 Radicals,which are arranged according to the number of strokes required to write them. The arrangement of characters under these radicals is also according to number of writing strokes,but not counting the radical strokes.

The characters in Chinese literature are usually arranged in vertical columns,and are read from top to bottom beginning from the right.

Apart from its form,which includes its indexing radical,each character has its meaning,its sound,its tone number,and its syntactic usage.

For the convenience of westerners, sounds of the Chinese characters are expressed by the English alphabet in what is known as Romanization. There are many systems of Romanization, but no one has been found adequately to cover the various and varying sounds of the Chinese language, and all have serious limitations to universal or common use. The system used in these lessons is that known as Wade's Romanization, and is that invariably used in dictionaries, and in diplomatic and commercial usage. While it may appear to be a system of inept phonetic spellings of Chinese words, yet by use and familiarity it is found to be a very useful and workable system.

The following are some of the more important sound values of the English letters in this system:

Vowels

a as in father; e as in fed, and ê as u in us; i as long e, and also as i in with, and when standing alone may be written yi.
o as in moan, u as in rule; ü as oo, and when standing alone may be written yü; ŭ as in nut.

Consonants

j as r in run; k' as k, and k approximates g; p' as p, and p approximates b; t' as t, and t approximates d.
ch' is ch as in church; ch is j as in jam; ts' as in seats; ts approximates dz sound; tz' is tz; tz approximates dz.

Diphthongs

ai as in aisle; ao as ow in how; ei as in deign; iu as eu in feud; ou as in soul.

(Continued on last leaf of this book)

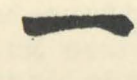
LESSON 1

五 四 三 二 一
人 人 人 人 人
十 八 六 四 二
手 手 手 手 手
。 ， ， ， ，

Yi jen erh shou,erh jen szu shou,
san jen liu shou,szu jen pa shou,
wu jen shih shou.

A man (has) two hands,two men(have)
four hands,three men(have)six hands,
four men(have)eight hands,five men
(have)ten hands.

VOCABULARY 1



YI(i)[1]

one, a

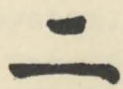
216/1



JÊN[2]

man, person

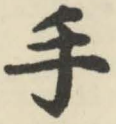
226/9



ERH[4]

two

125/7



SHOU[3]

hand

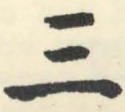
458/64



SZŬ[4]

four

481/31



SAN[1]

three

428/1



LIU[4]

six

315/12



PA[1]

eight

373/12



WU[3]

five

607/7

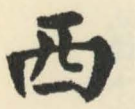


SHIH[2]

ten, complete

450/24

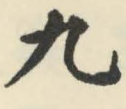
VOCABULARY 2



HSI[1]

west, foreign

158/146



CHIU[3]

nine, deep

84/5



KUA[1]

melon

263/97



KUNG[3,4]

altogether, to give; bow

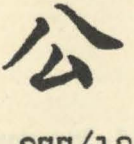
279/12



CH'I[1]

seven

37/1



KUNG[1]

public, just; duke; male

277/12



KO[4]

individual; classifier

251/9



FÊN[1]

to divide, distinguish; office, share

134/18



YU[4]

also, and, again

639/29



MEI[3]

each, every

334/80

LESSON 2

西瓜七個，又八個，又九個，共二十四個。

三人公分，每人八個。

Hsi-kua ch'i-ko,yu pa-ko,yu chiu-ko, kung erh-shih-szu ko.

San jen kung fen,mei jen pa-ko.

(There were)water-melons seven pieces, also eight pieces,also nine pieces, (making)altogether twenty-four pieces.

Three men evenly divided(them),each man obtaining eight pieces.

LESSON 3

一人寫字。
寫一天字，
寫一地字，
又寫山字水字。
四個字，
都寫得很好。

Yi jen hsieh tzu. Hsieh yi t'ien tzu, hsieh yi ti tzu,yu hsieh shan tzu shui tzu. Szu ko tzu,tou hsieh-te hen hao.

A man wrote characters. He wrote a 'heaven'character,he wrote an'earth' character,(and) also wrote'mountain' character(and)'water'character.

The four characters,(were)all written very well.

VOCABULARY 3

寫 HSIEH[3] to write 175/40

水 SHUI[3] water, fluid 467/85

字 TZŬ[4] written word; a name, style 586/39

都 TOU(tu)[1] all, the whole 533/163

天 T'IEN[1] heaven, sky; day; natural 523/37

得 TÊ[2] to get, attain 505/60

地 TI[4] the earth, position 511/32

很 HÊN[3] very, exceedingly 153/60

山 SHAN[1] mountain, hill; wild 434/46

好 HAO[3,4] good, well; very 150/38

VOCABULARY 4

家 CHIA[1]
family;class; people
41/40

老 LAO[3]
old;very; skilled
289/125

有 YU[3]
to have
638/74

小 HSIAO[3]
small,petty
171/42

男 NAN[2]
male,man, son
354/102

同 T'UNG[2]
with;all; together
581/30

的 TI[1]
particle: adjectival, adverbial, possessive
509/106

吃 CH'IH[1]
to eat; suffer; stammer
71/30

女 NÜ[3]
woman, female
369/38

飯 FAN[4]
cooked rice, food
129/184

LESSON 4

一家八人，有男的，有女的，有老的，有小的，一同吃飯。

Yi chia pa jen,yu nan-ti,yu nü-ti,
yu lao-ti,yu hsiao-ti,-
yi-t'ung ch'ih-fan.

In a family of eight persons,there were male,there were female,there were old,and there were young,-
and in one group(together)they ate their food.

LESSON 5

牛馬同走，
一前一後。
小孩問老人：
「前的是牛嗎？
後的是馬嗎？
老人說是。

Niu ma t'ung tsou,yi ch'ien yi hou.
Hsiao-hai wen lao-jen:
"Ch'ien-ti shih niu ma?
Hou-ti shih ma ma?"
Lao-jen shuo "Shih".

An ox and a horse together walked,
one in front and one behind.
A small boy asked the old man:
"Is the front one an ox?
Is the hinder one a horse?"
The old man said "Yes".

VOCABULARY 5


NIU 2

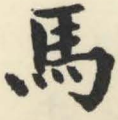
an ox

365/93


WÊN 4

to ask, problem

603/30


MA 3

a horse

326/187


SHUO 1

to speak, scold, talk

469/149


TSOU 3

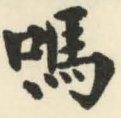
to walk, go, travel

555/156


CH'IEN 2

before, in front

64/18


MA 1

interrogative particle

326/30


SHIH 4

to be, yes, thus

453/72


HAI 2

child, boy

145/39


HOU 4

behind, after

157/40

VOCABULARY 6

上 438/1 SHANG [3,4] above; go up; upon; superior

讀 567/149 TU [2,4] to read, study

先 176/10 HSIEN [1] first, before, ancient

書 460/73 SHU [1] book, letter, to write

生 445/100 SHÊNG [1] to beget, grow, life

課 254/149 K'O(k'ê) [4] lessons, task

教 50/66 CHIAO [1,4] to teach; doctrines

百 377/106 PAI(po) [3] hundred

學 194/39 HSÜEH(hsiao) [2] to learn, education

日 229/72 JIH [4] day, sun

LESSON 6

先生教書，
學生讀書。
教一課，
讀一課。
一日教一課，
百日讀百課。

Hsien-sheng chiao shu,hsüeh-sheng tu-shu. Chiao yi k'o,tu yi k'o.
Yi jih chiao yi k'o,
pai jih tu pai k'o.

A teacher teaches books,a scholar reads books. He teaches a lesson, and he reads a lesson.
In one day he would teach one lesson, (and he)in a hundred days would read a hundred lessons.

LESSON 7

三個小孩兒，
一個哭，
一個笑，
一個不哭不笑。
各有各的神氣，
真正好看！

San ko hsiao-hai-erh,
yi ko k'u,yi ko hsiao,
yi ko pu-k'u pu-hsiao.
Ko yu ko ti shen-ch'i,
chen-cheng hao k'an !

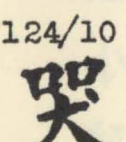
There were three small boys,
one was crying,one was laughing,
and one neither cried nor laughed.
Each having his own disposition,
really was interesting(good) to see !

VOCABULARY 7


124/10

ERH [2]

infant, boy, son


262/30

K'U [1]

to weep, cry


172/118

HSIAO [4]

to laugh, glad


421/1

PU [1]

negative, not


251/30

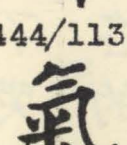
KO(kê) [4]

each, every, all


444/113

SHÊN [2]

Deity; spirit; very


40/84

CH'I [4]

air; force; temper


24/109

CHÊN [1]

genuine; truly


28/77

CHÊNG [1,4]

correct


241/109

K'AN [1,4]

to look at, see; look after

VOCABULARY 8



CH'ING [1]

green, blue, black

82/174



SHUI [4]

to sleep

468/109



TS'AO [3]

grass, careless

547/140



FEI [1]

negative, not

132/175



CHI [1]

fowl, chicken

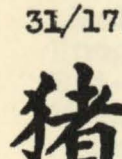
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CH'ANG [2]

frequent, constant

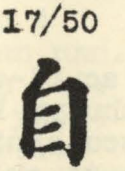
17/50



CHU [1]

pig, swine

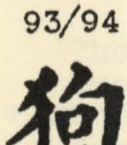
93/94



TZǓ [4]

oneself, from

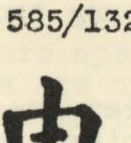
585/132



KOU [3]

dog

255/94



YU [2]

from; origin; follow

636/102

LESSON 8

青草地上，
有雞有猪有狗。
走的走，
睡的睡，
吃草的吃草，
都非常自由。

Ch'ing ts'ao ti-shang,
yu chi yu chu yu kou.
Tsou-ti tsou,shui-ti shui,
ch'ih-ts'ao-ti ch'ih-ts'ao,-
tou fei-ch'ang tzu-yu.

On the green grassy earth,there were fowls and pigs and dogs.
Those that walked were walking,those that slept were sleeping,and those that ate grass were eating grass,-all in a state of unusual contentment.

LESSON 9

紅花開了！
白花開了！
紅花在南村，
白花在北村。
年年二三月，
花紅又花白。

Hung-hua k'ai-liao !
Pai-hua k'ai-liao !
Hung-hua tsai ts'un nan.
Pai-hua tsai ts'un pei.
Nien-nien erh san yüeh,
hua hung yu hua pai.

The red flowers are open !
The white flowers are open !
The red flowers are on the south of the village.
The white flowers are on the north of the village.
Year by year in the second and third months, there are flowers that are red, and flowers that are white.

VOCABULARY 9



HUNG [2]

red

212/120



TS'UN [1]

village

562/75



HUA [1]

flower;vice; to spend

200/140



NAN [2]

south

355/24



K'AI [1]

to open

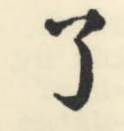
236/169



PEI [3]

north

391/21



LIAO [3]

finished, past,over

303/6



NIEN [2]

year,age

362/51



PAI [2]

white

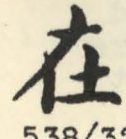
417/106



YÜEH [4]

moon,month

654/74



TSAI [4]

at,in;living

538/32

VOCABULARY 10


HSIN [1]

new, fresh

182/69


YEH [3]

also, and

620/5


TAO [4]

to reach, arrive

501/18


HUAN [1]

glad, happy

203/76


NI [3]

you

360/9


HSI [3]

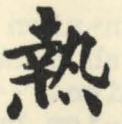
to rejoice, joy, glad

161/30


HO [4]

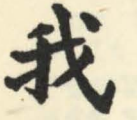
congratulate

156/154


JÊ(jo) [4]

hot, to heat

229/86


WO [3]

I, myself

370/62


NAO [4]

bustle, noise, disturb, scold

357/191

LESSON 10

新年到了！
你說賀年，
我也說賀年。
人人歡歡喜喜，
家家熱熱鬧鬧。

Hsin-nien tao-liao !
Ni shuo ho-nien,wo yeh shuo ho-nien.
Jen-jen huan-huan hsi-hsi,
chia-chia je-je nao-nao.

The New Year has come !
You say 'Greetings of the Year', and I also say 'Greetings of the Year'.
People are joyful and happy, families are excited and busy.

LESSON 11

一羣小孩兒，
在場上打球。
東起西落，
南起北落。
又跳又笑，
真是快樂。

Yi ch'ün hsiao-hai-erh,
tsai ch'ang-shang ta-ch'iu.
Tung ch'i hsi lo,
nan ch'i pei lo.
Yu t'iao yu hsiao,
chen shih k'uai-lo.

A group of small boys,(were)
on the courtyard playing ball.
It ascended in the east and
came down in the west,
it ascended in the south and came
down in the north.
They were jumping and laughing,and
truly they were happy.

VOCABULARY 11


CH'ÜN [2]

group,gang, flock

124/123


CH'I [3]

arise,to rise, begin

40/156


CH'IU [2]

ball,globe

86/96


LO [4]

to fall,drop

316/140


CH'ANG [2]

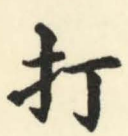
level area, arena,field

18/32


T'IAO [4]

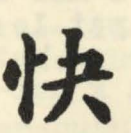
to jump,dance

518/157


TA [3]

to strike

484/64


K'UAI [4]

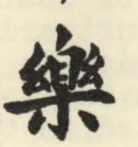
quick;happy; sharp;soon

265/61


TUNG [1]

East

578/75


LÊ(lo) [4]

joy, to rejoice

291/75

VOCABULARY 12


HSIUNG [1]
elder brother
188/10


CHUNG [1,4]
middle, midst
108/2


TI [4]
younger brother
512/57

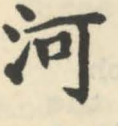

HSING [2]
to walk, act, motion, deeds
184/144


TSO [4]
to sit
552/32


CH'I [2]
to ride horseback
38/187


CH'UAN [2]
boat
102/137


AN [4]
cliff, bank
4/46


HO [2]
river
155/85


KÊNG [1,4]
still more
247/73

LESSON 12

兄弟二人：
弟坐船，在河中行；
兄騎馬，在岸上走。
船行得快，馬走得更快。

Hsiung-ti erh jen:
ti tso ch'uan,tsai ho-chung hsing;
hsiung ch'i ma,tsai an-shang tsou.
Ch'uan hsing-te k'uai,ma tsou-te keng k'uai.

There were two brothers:
the younger sat in a boat,which proceeded along the middle of the river;the elder rode a horse,that walked on the bank(of the river).
The boat proceeded quickly,but the horse walked still more quickly.

LESSON 13

三個人，
同路出去買菜。
一人說：
"我買雞，
你買魚，
他買肉。
三人各買各的，
很得意的回來。

San ko jen,t'ung-lu ch'u-ch'ü mai ts'ai. Yi jen shuo:
"Wo mai chi,ni mai yü,t'a mai jou".
San jen ko mai ko-ti,hen te-yi-ti hui-lai.

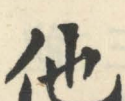
Three men went out together to buy food. One man said:
"I will buy fowl,you will buy fish, and he will buy meat".
The three men each bought his separate kind,and very well satisfied they came back.

VOCABULARY 13


LU[4]

road,way,path

319/157


T'A[1]

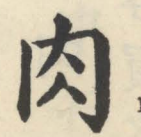
he,she,it, other

487/9


CH'U[1]

out,from

97/17


JOU[4]

meat,flesh

231/130


CH'Ü[4]

to leave,go, dismiss

117/28


YI(i)[4]

thought,will, intention

220/61


MAI[3]

to buy, purchase

327/154


HUI[2]

to return; a time

208/31


TS'AI[4]

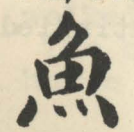
vegetables, food

541/140


LAI[2]

to come; pluperfect

284/9


YÜ[2]

fish

642/195

VOCABULARY 14

茶 CH'A [2] tea 8/140

話 HUA [4] spoken words 201/149

館 KUAN [3] hotel, inn, shop 268/184

國 KUO [2] country 280/31

裏 LI [3] inside, in, inner 296/145

事 SHIH [4] affair; to serve 454/6

多 TO [1] many, much, mostly 529/36

下 HSIA [4] below, down, next 164/1

談 T'AN [2] to talk, converse 495/149

往 WANG [3] to go past; proceed 594/60

LESSON 14

茶館裏，
談話的人很多。
有談家事的，
有談國事的，
有談天下事的。
來來往往，
熱鬧得很。

Ch'a-kuan-li,t'an-hua ti jen hen to.
Yu t'an chia-shih-ti,yu t'an kuo-shih-ti,yu t'an t'ien-hsia-shih-ti.
Lai-lai wang-wang je-nao te hen.

In a tea-shop,the people who were talking together were very many.
Some were talking of family affairs, some of national affairs,and others of affairs in general. The coming and going were exceedingly boisterous.

LESSON 15

農村中，
有草屋數間。
前面是河，
後面是山。
左右是各種樹木。
農家生活，
十分快樂。

Nung-ts'un chung,yu ts'ao-wu shu-chien. Ch'ien-mien shih ho, hou-mien shih shan. Tso-yu shih ko chung shu-mu. Nung-chia sheng-huo,shih-fen k'uai-lo.

In a farming village,there were a few thatched cottages. In front there was a river,and at the back there was a mountain. To the left and the right there were all kinds of trees. The life of a farmer is a perfectly happy one.

VOCABULARY 15


368/161 NUNG [2] agriculture, farm, to farm


639/30 YU [4] right hand; to honour


605/44 WU [1] house, room


109/115 CHUNG [3,4] seed; kind; to sow


463/66 SHU [4] number, a few; to count


463/75 SHU [4] tree


58/169 CHIEN [1,4] between, to separate


350/75 MU [4] wood, tree


342/176 MIEN [4] face, surface


214/85 HUO [2] alive; to live; motion


552/48 TSO [3] left hand,

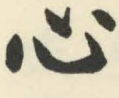
VOCABULARY 16



HUI [4]

meeting, to meet

209/73



HSIN [1]

heart, mind; centre

181/61



CHANG [1]

extend; open; boast S.

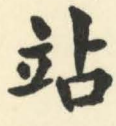
14/57



T'ING [1]

to hear, obey

527/128



CHAN [4]

to stand, stop

12/117



CHAO [2]

present participle; attain

19/109



YEN [3]

practice; lecture

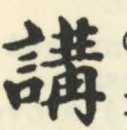
625/85



TSO [4]

to do; make; be in action

553/9



CHIANG [3]

lecture, talk, explain

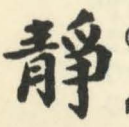
45/149



SHÊNG [1]

sound, voice; reputation

446/128



CHING [4]

silence, calm

81/174

LESSON 16

村中開會，
到的人很多。
有個張先生，
站在上面演講。
大家坐在下面，
靜心聽着，
都不做聲。

Ts'un-chung k'ai-hui,tao-ti jen hen to. Yu ko Chang hsien-sheng, chan tsai shang-mien yen-chiang. Ta-chia tso tsai hsia-mien,ching-hsin t'ing-chao,tou pu tso sheng.

In a village a meeting was convened, and those who came were very many. There was a Mr.Chang who stood above and lectured. The audience all sat below quietly listening,without making a sound.

LESSON 17

四個小學生，
站的站，
坐的坐，
在草地上唱歌。

「春風和，
春日暖。
精神爽快，
喜氣充滿。

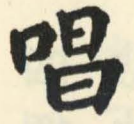
Szu ko hsiao hsüeh-sheng,
chan-ti chan,tso-ti tso,
tsai ts'ao ti-shang ch'ang ko.

"Ch'un feng ho,ch'un jih nuan.
Ching-shen shuang-k'uai,
Hsi-ch'i ch'ung-man".

There were four small students,
some standing,some sitting,on the
grassy ground singing a song.

"The spring breeze is balmy,
The spring sun is warm.
Our spirits are cheerful,
Our joy is full measure".

VOCABULARY 17



CH'ANG [4]

to sing; call out

18/30



NUAN [3]

warm, mild

368/72



KO [1]

song

249/76



CHING [1]

essence, fine; vigor; smart

79/119



CH'UN [1]

spring

107/72



SHUANG [3]

lively, cheerful

467/89



FÊNG [1]

wind, breeze

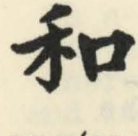
136/182



CH'UNG [1]

to fill; act as

110/10



HO [2]

to unite, in harmony

154/30



MAN [3]

full entire

329/85

VOCABULARY 18

姊 TZŬ [3]
elder sister
585/38

念 NIEN [4]
to read, chant
364/61

妹 MEI [4]
younger sister
334/38

理 LI [3]
to manage; principles
295/96

從 TS'UNG [2]
obey, to follow, from, since
566/60

本 PÊN [3]
root, source; C. of books; capital
395/75

堂 T'ANG [2]
hall
499/32

用 YUNG [4]
to use; with, by
642/101

報 PAO [4]
a journal, report, requite
387/32

功 KUNG [1]
efficacy, merit, efficiency
276/19

信 HSIN [4]
a letter; trust; believe
183/9

LESSON 18

姊妹三人，
從學堂裏回家。
一個看報，
一個寫信，
一個念地理讀本。
十分用功，
家人都歡喜。

Tzu-mei san jen,
ts'ung hsüeh-t'ang-li hui chia.
Yi ko k'an pao,yi ko hsieh hsin,
yi ko nien ti-li tu-pen.
Shih-fen yung-kung,chia-jen tou
huan-hsi.

There were three sisters(who)from school had returned home. One was looking at the newspaper,one was writing a letter,and one was reading a geography primer.
They were perfectly efficient,and the members of the family were all delighted.

LESSON 19

一清早，有個鄉下人，挑了一擔菜，在街上叫賣。好多人，都出來買。一會兒，就把菜買完了。

Yi ch'ing tsao,yu ko hsiang-hsia jen,t'iao-liao yi tan ts'ai,tsai chieh-shang chiao mai.
Hao to jen,tou ch'u-lai mai.
Yi-hui-erh,chiu pa ts'ai mai wan-liao.

One early morning,there was a villager,who carried a load of vegetables,and on the street called them for sale. A good many persons, all came out to buy. In a moment, thereupon,they had taken the vegetables and bought them up completely.

VOCABULARY 19

清 CH'ING [1] pure,clear

82/85

早 TSAO [3] early,soon, morning

545/72

鄉 HSIANG [1] village, country

166/163

挑 T'IAO [1] to carry; guard;mix

516/64

擔 TAN [4] load;bear; to carry

492/64

街 CHIEH [1] a street

53/144

叫 CHIAO [4] to call,let, command

50/30

賣 MAI [4] to sell

328/154

把 PA [3] grasp;handful; guard

374/64

就 CHIU [4] towards;then, at once

85/43

完 WAN [2] to finish

591/40

VOCABULARY 20



CH'IU [1]

autumn, harvest

86/115



SHOU [1]

to receive, harvest

457/66



CH'ÊNG [2]

to complete, perfect

29/62



MI [3]

hulled rice, millet

338/119



K'Ê (k'o) [4]

guest, passenger

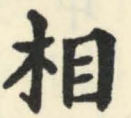
254/40



HU [4]

mutual, dovetail

199/7



HSIANG [1]

mutual, reciprocal

167/109



CHIAO [1]

to join, unite; deliver

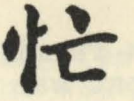
47/8



HUAN [4]

to exchange, alter

204/64



MANG [2]

busy, haste

330/61

LESSON 20

有一農家，
秋天收成很好，
一家大小，
都挑米出賣。
從家中到客船，
路上互相交換，
又忙又快活。

Yu yi nung-chia,ch'iu-t'ien shou-ch'eng hen hao,yi chia ta-hsiao,tou t'iao mi ch'u mai.
Ts'ung chia-chung tao k'e-ch'uan,lu-shang hu-hsiang chiao-huan,yu mang yu k'uai-huo.

There was a farming family,whose autumn harvest was very good,and the whole family large and small, all carried the rice out to sell.
From the home until reaching the passenger boat,they mutually interchanged(their loads),and were both busy and cheerful.

LESSON 21

清明後，
野外天氣和暖．
孩子們出去放牛；
有些在樹林，
有些在草地．
坐着唱歌，
實在高興．

Ch'ing-ming hou,yeh-wai t'ien-ch'i ho-nuan. Hai-tzu-men ch'u-ch'ü fang-niu;yu-hsieh tsai shu-lin,yu-hsieh tsai ts'ao-ti. Tso-chao ch'ang-ko,shih-tsai kao-hsing.

After the Ching-ming festival,in the open country the weather is mild and warm. The children go out to pasture the oxen;some in the woods,and some in the grassy lands. They sit and sing ditties, and certainly are in high spirits.

VOCABULARY 21

明 MING [2] bright; understand 344/72

些 HSIEH [1] a little, few 173/7

野 YEH [3] a desert; wild, rustic 620/166

林 LIN [2] forest, grove 309/75

外 WAI [4] outside, foreign 590/36

實 SHIH [2] true; solid; in reality 451/40

子 TZŬ [3] child; seed; noun-ending 584/39

高 KAO [1] high; noble; old 243/189

們 MÊN [1] sign of plural 335/9

興 HSING [1,4] prosper; begin; feelings 184/134

放 FANG [4] to let go, set free 132/66

VOCABULARY 22

兩 LIANG 3
two, a pair
301/11

那 NA 3,4
that, there; interrogation
353/163

鐵 T'IEH 3
iron, metal
519/167

火 HO 3
fire, to burn
214/86

工 KUNG 1
work; time; duty
276/48

亂 LUAN 4
confusion
321/5

對 TUI 4
to front; reply; a pair
573/41

比 PI 3
to compare
399/81

這 CHÊ 4
this, here
22/162

加 CHIA 1
to add to
42/19

邊 PIEN 1
side, margin, edge; place
408/162

LESSON 22

兩個鐵工，
站在對面打鐵。
這邊打一下
那邊打一下。
火花亂放，
比樹上的紅花，
更加好看。

Liang ko t'ieh-kung,chan tsai tui-mien ta-t'ieh. Che-pien ta yi-hsia,na-pien ta yi-hsia.
Huo hua luan fang,pi shu-shang-ti hung hua,keng chia hao k'an.

There were two blacksmiths, standing opposite each other beating the iron. This side struck a blow, that side struck a blow.
The fiery flowers burst in wild confusion,(and)compared to the red flowers of the tree,they were still more beautiful to see.

LESSON 23

父親大人：

兒前天到學堂，一路平安．今天上課，先生很和氣，同學們也很好，心裏非常快活．望二位大人，好好保養爲要．

兒和中上
二月二日

Fu-mu-ch'in ta-jen:

Erh ch'ien-t'ien tao hsüeh-t'ang, yi-lu p'ing-an. Chin-t'ien shang-k'o, hsien-sheng hen ho-ch'i, t'ung hsüeh-men yeh hen hao, hsin-li fei-ch'ang k'uai-huo. Wang erh-wei ta-jen, hao-hao pao-yang wei-yao.

Erh, Ho-chung shang. Erh-yüeh erh-jih

Dear parents,-great persons:

Your son the day before yesterday arrived at school, and the journey was peaceful. Today I started lessons, the teacher is of friendly disposition, and my classmates also are very fine, so my heart is unusually cheerful. I hope you two great persons will very carefully look after yourselves, for this is important.

Your son, Ho-chung, sends this up.
The 2nd. month, the 2nd. day.

父 FU 4 father
143/88

親 CH'IN 1 to love, relative, self
77/147

母 MU 3 mother
350/80

平 P'ING 2 tranquil, even
415/51

安 AN 1 quiet,rest; still
3/40

望 WANG 4 to look at; expect
595/74

位 WEI 4 seat;a post; C.of persons
599/9

保 PAO 3 to guard, protect
386/9

養 YANG 3 to nourish; bear;support
615/184

為 WEI 2,4 to do;be;make; cause
596/87

要 YAO 4 to want;will; important
618/146

VOCABULARY 24



WU [2]

no, not

606/86



K'U [3]

bitter, weary

262/140



CHIA [4]

price, value

43/9



P'AO [1]

womb, mother

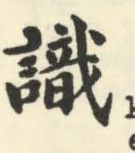
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PAO [3]

precious

387/40



SHIH [2]

knowledge; experience

451/149



SHAO [3,4]

few, seldom, wanting

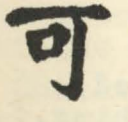
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CHIH [1]

wisdom, knowledge

65/111



K'O(k'ê) [3]

to permit, may, can

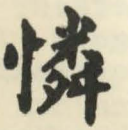
253/30



CH'ING [3]

invite, please

83/149



LIEN [2]

to pity

307/61



YÜAN [4]

to desire; willing, a vow

652/181

LESSON 24

讀書好，讀書好，
讀得書多無價寶。
願讀書，在年少。
可憐多少苦同胞，
無識無知忙到老。
請問讀書好不好？
好！好！好！

Tu-shu hao,tu-shu hao,
Tu-te shu to wu chia pao.
Yüan tu shu,tsai nien shao.
K'o-lien to-shao k'u t'ung-p'ao,
Wu-shih wu-chih mang tao lao.
Ch'ing wen tu shu hao pu hao?
Hao! Hao! Hao!

To read is good,to read is good,
To read much is a priceless thing.
We should want to read while young.
Alas,so many distressed brothers,
Toil in ignorance until old age.
I ask you is it good or not to read?
Good! Good! Good!

(Continued from first leaf of this book)

There are only some 420 Romanized words required to cover all the sounds of Chinese characters,so that where many different characters have the same sound,it would be impossible by the Romanization alone,to know which particular character was intended,unless that character was in sight. This difficulty is met to some extent by the tonal system.

The Mandarin dialect,which is the basis for the Kuo-yü or National Language,has four tones,and each Chinese character carries one of these four tones,and in some cases more than one,when a different meaning or use is indicated.

The respective tones for the characters are the same all over China wherever the Mandarin language is spoken,but different localities give different intonations to the tones. These differences are rapidly disappearing,due to the spread of the National Language,which is producing a more universal standard of pronunciation,intonation,and syntactical usage,and bids fair to absorb the various dialects and brogues of the country.

Chinese grammar,when compared with that of Western cognate languages,is conspicuous by its simplicity and its elasticity. The requirements of grammar are met chiefly by means of a definite word order,and also by a few much used auxiliary words. Syntactic and idiomatic use of words, rather than fixed grammatical rules,are essentials for logical and accurate expression of ideas in the Chinese language.

The student is recommended to obtain a copy of C.H.Fenn's "Chinese-English Pocket-Dictionary",and endeavour speedily to acquire facility in its use.
This dictionary gives various tables essential to the study of Chinese,including the list of the 214 Radicals.

The vocabulary of each lesson given in these texts contains the new characters first met with in the particular lesson.

Under each character in the vocabularies a double number is given,the first part of which is the page in Fenn's dictionary where the character may be found,and the second part of the number is the Radical number under which the character is indexed.

The strokes used to form each character are always written in a particular order and the student should learn the sequence and follow the order in counting the strokes in a character,or in writing them.
These texts do not show the order of strokes,but the student may obtain these from copy-books which are obtainable,and could readily insert the stroke numbers on the large characters given in the vocabularies.